

In the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

~~One embodiment of the disclosures made herein is a method for facilitating protection switching via failure prediction techniques. In accordance with such a method at least one~~
embodiment of the disclosures made herein, an operation for monitoring a failure prediction parameter
of at least one of the plurality of protected system elements is performed. During monitoring, an
operation is performed for correlating a present state of the failure prediction parameter to a failure
prediction criterion for determining whether one of the protected system elements has been met a
failure prediction condition is performed, thus identifying a failure predicted one of a plurality of
protected system elements when ~~the~~ a failure prediction condition is met. ~~An operation is performed~~
~~for determining whether a protection switching priority among a collection of failure predicted system~~
~~elements applies to the failure predicted one of the protected system elements. In response to~~
determining protection switching priority as applying to the failure predicted one ~~of the protected~~
~~system elements or the failure predicted one being the only failure predicted system element, an~~
~~operation is performed for downloading service information of the failure predicted one of the~~
~~protected system elements to the protection system element is performed.~~ An operation is next
performed for confirming failure Failure of the failure predicted one ~~of the protected system elements~~
is confirmed. Then, ~~an operation is performed for switching~~ Switching communication service
supported by the failure predicted one of the protected system elements for being supported by to the
protection system element is performed.